

what provisional name to give this fossil, and shall therefore let it stand over to some future time.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,

EDWARD PARFITT.

Devon and Exeter Institution, Exeter.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XI. figs. 9-12.

- Fig. 9.* Portion of weathered surface with the crystals of carbonate of lime washed out or decayed: enlarged.
Fig. 10. Specimen cut horizontally, showing the interstices of the stolons filled with crystals: enlarged.
Fig. 11. End view of specimen, showing the stoloniferous masses standing out free. The cross lines are the natural size of the specimen.
Fig. 12. Three cells (?), showing indications of double walls and septa: magnified.

XVIII.—*Reply to Dr. Gray on Testudo chilensis* &c.

By P. L. SCLATER, Ph.D., F.R.S.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,

Dr. Gray, following his habitual practice, has thought proper to reply to my scientific criticisms upon the species described by him as *Ateles Bartletti* and *Testudo chilensis* with a series of personal remarks which I do not care to notice. As, however, one of the charges made against me would, if true, affect the credit of this Society, I request you to publish, in answer thereto, the subjoined account of some observations on this subject made at the meeting of this Society last evening.

I may also as well state that it is not correct that (as assumed by Dr. Gray) my information as to the synonyms of the (so-called) *Testudo chilensis* was obtained from Dr. Gray's "short note."

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

P. L. SCLATER.

Zoological Society of London,
11 Hanover Square, London, W.
January 17th, 1871.

"On concluding my series of reports upon the additions to the Society's menagerie for the past year, I beg leave to take this opportunity of calling the attention of the meeting to the register of accessions to the menagerie now lying on the table.

In it will be found the English and scientific name, sex, and locality, so far as these are ascertainable, of every vertebrate animal received alive by the Society, together with information as to how it was obtained, whether by presentation, purchase, or otherwise. A corresponding register is kept of all the deaths that occur in the Society's Gardens, and of the mode in which the bodies are disposed of. This lies also on the table. Both these registers, which are kept at the Superintendent's office in the Gardens, are, I need hardly say, at all times open to the inspection of the Fellows of the Society, or of any other person interested in them. Moreover, in order to give greater publicity to the list of arrivals, a copy of them is published every week in the 'Field' newspaper.

"From the earliest days of the Society's existence it has been the practice to keep a register of 'arrivals and departures' in the daily journal of 'occurrences,' as it is termed, prepared by the Superintendent. Ever since the day when I had the honour of becoming Secretary of the Society, the register of accessions has been carefully revised every month, and printed in the 'Proceedings.' This was at first done month by month* ; but it was thought afterwards to be more convenient to give the list of additions for the year continuously, so that since 1862 it has been printed entire as an 'Appendix' to the yearly volume of 'Proceedings.' At the same time it has been my constant practice (as those here, who have so often had to listen to me, must be fully aware) to bring before the scientific meetings such notices as seemed to be requisite of all the more remarkable additions to the Society's collection, so as to call more immediate attention to every accession of special interest. I have likewise edited and published for the Society four editions of the list of Vertebrated Animals in the Society's Gardens, and am now engaged in preparing a fifth edition, which will contain a record of every accession received up to the close of last year, and will thus form a complete list of all the animals that have been living in the Society's Gardens during the past ten years. I have been induced to trouble the meeting with these few remarks, because, in the last number of the 'Annals of Natural History' †, a Fellow of the Society has assured the public that no proper record is kept of the living animals received in the Society's Gardens. How such a statement can have been conscientiously made in the face of the facts above stated, by

* See P. Z. S. 1859, p. 212, where the first of these lists (for May of that year) is given.

† Ann. Nat. Hist. ser. 4. vol. vii. p. 15.

one who was formerly a Vice-President of the Society and is in the constant habit of referring to the 'Proceedings,' I am not able to explain."

XIX.—*On Ateles Bartletti*.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

IN the minutes of the meeting of the Zoological Society, 17th January 1871, just published, it is stated that, on concluding his Report, "the Secretary called attention to the registers of accessions to and deaths in the Society's menagerie which lay on the table, and showed, in contradiction to statements recently published by Dr. Gray, that they were faithfully kept up, and that a revised abstract of the former was published every year as an appendix to the Society's 'Proceedings.'"

I did not deny the existence of the register, and I am very glad to hear that it is better kept than when I was able to attend the Society, when it did not furnish the information that I required; and the abstract being published in the 'Proceedings' is comparatively a recent custom. From the inquiries made of me, it is certain that the register must often have been many months in arrear; and if this register contained the habitats, the difficulty that I have experienced in obtaining them is the more incomprehensible.

Since my observations an alteration, which is a great improvement, has certainly been made. The dead animals are now marked with a ticket referring to the register giving the origin, habitat, &c. But this is not extended to all the specimens; for I received some young Crocodilians and a Lizard without any such ticket, and rejected them, as the habitat is most essential when determining the Crocodilians in their young state.

When Dr. Sclater made the extraordinary general statement* that the habitats of the specimens in the British Museum were not to be depended upon, of course he referred to the numerous specimens which we annually purchase from the Zoological Society; of the others he could have but a very limited knowledge; and the greater part are received from the

* It was to be expected that Mr. Sclater would before long himself refute the sweeping assertion that no argument whatever, as regards geographical distribution, could be based on the specimens in the British Museum. Only a week or two ago there appeared in 'Nature' a popular article of his on the Fauna of New Zealand. May we ask him whence he could have obtained more complete information regarding the reptiles of that country than from the Catalogue of the British Museum?